GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3940
ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003
VPT IN ORISSA
PARSURAM MAJHI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village public telephones installed in the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput districts of Orissa;

(b) whether the majority of villages in those districts do not have public telephone facilities; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide village public telephone facility in each village in those districts particularly the inaccessible villages?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) A total of 8987 Village Public telephones (VPTs) have been installed in Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa as on 31.3.2003. District-wise details are as under:-

District	Total Villages	Villages with Telecom Facilities
Kalahandi	2700	2371
Bolangir	2569	2396
Koraput	6118	4220

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Out of the remaining 2400 uncovered village in these districts, 2077 inaccessible villages are planned to be provided by Satellite based telephones subject to availability of funds from the government. 228 villages are uninhabited, 55 small villages are with no custodian and 40 villages fall under naxalite affected areas. These shall be provided with telecom facilities as and when the situation improves.